

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-24 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12 and 18 have been amended. Claims 9-11 have been cancelled. Consequently, claims 1-8 and 12-24 are now pending.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4). Applicant's undersigned representative interprets the Examiner's comments to imply that the drawings violate the requirement that the "same part of an invention appearing in more than one view of the drawing must always be designated by the same reference character." In response, the Applicant herewith submits two replacement sheets containing amended Figures 2 and 3. The amended figures are intended to better define the invention. As disclosed in the specification as filed, Figure 2 is a schematic depiction showing a client to client real time update notification process. The exemplary depiction in Figure 2 illustrates four different computers assigned to unique clients, namely, "Client A, Client B, Client C and Client D," and are designated by reference characters 115 to 118. Figure 3 is a depiction of a use of the invention with a goal-directed messaging system. The exemplary depiction in Figure 3 illustrates two different and unique project team members labeled as "Member A" and "Member B" and designated reference characters 215 to 216. The Examiner has also objected to the use of reference characters 217 and 219 as designating "messages." These separate and distinct designated parts of the invention are not the "same part" as discussed in 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4). Message 217 travels, in part, to and from team member A and message 219 travels, in part, to and from team member B.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the replacement sheets comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4). Accordingly, it is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of a grammatical error found on line 18 of page 1. Appropriate correction to the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 13 is included in this Amendment. Accordingly, it is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 9, 12 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failure to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 12 and 18 have been amended to correct for an apparent lack of insufficient antecedent basis for a limitation in each claim. Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, withdraw of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,065,051 to Steele et al. The Steele patent is generally directed to an apparatus and method for providing flexible communications of data modification of Web resources between client browsers, where the Web resources are on a server. Specifically, the patent seeks to solve an identified problem in the prior art (see '051, col. 1, lines 57-64).

A key difficulty with communication between client browsers is caused because the client browser will not create a network connection to any computer other than the one from which the client browser code itself was loaded. Therefore, if a client browser changes data in a Web resource that is being shared or accessible by other browsers, the other browsers will not be made aware of the Web resource data change.

In other words, the '051 patent focuses on providing server notices to users on active browsers of data changes to the database in which they are operating. This prevents the "utilization of stale database data in the client user browser." ('051, col. 2, lines 42-43).

The Examiner has cited one exemplary embodiment of the present invention as from the '051 patent that is discussed in the '051 patent at col. 2, lines 16-39. In this embodiment, a CGI-BIN application program first ascertains if any database data, accessible to multiple browsers, was updated. If any such database changes made by a client user interface (browser) are detected, a database change notice is transmitted by the CGI-BIN application to a security server. After the security server receives the database change notice, the security server checks its sign-on list of all the client browsers currently active. The server subsequently sends a database change notice to all client user interface browsers currently connected to the security server. All client user browsers receive a database change notice. In one response mode, the database change notice is displayed within the client user browser and a response is necessary to update the data. In accordance with a second option, the browser data is automatically changed.

Independent claim 1 of the present invention is directed to a computer-implemented process. As pending, claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A method of communicating information between a plurality of client computers comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing data on a data source and communicating the data from the data source to one or more of a plurality of client computers in response to a request for data by said one or more client computers;
 - b) updating the data on the data source by sending data from one of the plurality of client computers to said data source; and
 - c) communicating a fact that the data available on the data source has been updated by communicating a client to client message from the one client computer that updated the data to other client computers thereby prompting said other client computers to access the updated data from the data source. (emphasis added)

The present invention provides a new and improved method of real time updates for users of databases that are shared by multiple users. The recited client to client message strategy is novel and not anticipated by the cited prior art. This feature is illustrated in Figure 2 of the present application as filed. The client to client direct messaging occurs on network 102, rather than elsewhere, e.g., the HTTP server 106 or the database server 104. "A client to client message from the client computer 115, 115, 117, 118 that updated the data is sent to other client computers on the network 102." (page 5, lines 28-31). This "direct messaging" strategy is also illustrated in Figure 3 of the present invention and discussed on page 7, lines 1-9 of the pending application.

The '065 patent does not disclose or suggest the use of client to client messaging by the client computer that updated the data to make other client computers aware of the updated data as recited in claim 1. In fact, the '065 patent specifically teaches the use of a security server to send a database change notice to all client user interface browsers ('065, col. 2, line 36-37) thus teaching away from the invention featured in claim 1. Additionally, the '065 patent teaches away from an improved real time update method as prescribed by the present invention first, by not only failing to anticipate time saving method steps and second, by suggesting additional steps that teach away from real time updating.

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the '065 patent does not anticipate claim 1 of the present application. Further, it is submitted that claims 2-3 and 8 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on allowable claim 1. Consequently,

withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the '051 patent to Steele et al. Claims 9-11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

The Examiner has rejected claims 12-14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the '051 patent to Steele et al. Claim 12 has been amended to better define the invention. Claim 12 as pending features a computer-readable medium based on claim 1 and all the arguments presented above with regard to claim 1 are appropriate for this claim. Accordingly, this claim is allowable. Claims 13-14 and claim 17 depend from allowable claim 12 and are also allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 18, 21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by '051 to Steele et al. Claim 18 has been amended to better define the invention. Claim 18 as pending features a method of communicating information between a plurality of computers and is based on claim 1. Further, all the arguments presented above with regard to claim 1 are appropriate for this claim. Accordingly, this claim is allowable. Claims 21 and 23 depend from allowable claim 18 and are also allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steele et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,249,806 to Kohda et al. Kohda et al fails to remedy the failure of the Steele et al patent to show or to suggest the subject matter of claim 1. It is submitted that claims 4-7 are patentable at least by virtue of direct or indirect dependence on allowable claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steele et al. in view of '806 to Kohda et al. It is submitted that claims 15-16 are patentable at least by virtue of direct or indirect dependence on allowable claim 12. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 19-20, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steele et al. in view of '806 to Kohda et al. It is submitted that claims 19-20, 22 and 24 are patentable at least by virtue of direct or indirect dependence on allowable claim 18. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of independent claims 1, 12 and 18 is patentable. Further, the subject matter of the remaining dependent claims is patentable at least by virtue of dependence on claims 1, 12 and 18. Therefore, it is believed that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and a subsequent early Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited.

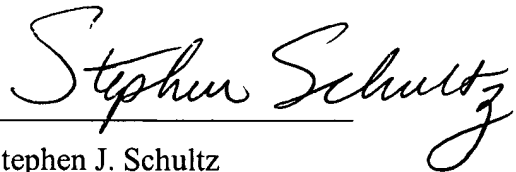
Respectfully submitted,

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